

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 17 and 22-27 are rejected. Claims 3-8, 12-16 and 18-21 are objected to, i.e., indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, claims 3 and 12 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 10, 17-22 and 24-27 are amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 17 and 22-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner suggests using "computer readable recording medium..." in the claims.

In response, each of claims 17 and 22-27 is amended as shown above as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 17 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 17, 22-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,798,450 to Bear ("Bear").

As indicated above, each of claims 1 and 10 has been amended to further recite the features of allowable claims 3 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, each of claims 1 and 10 is

believed to be allowable over the cited reference (i.e., Bear) for at least similar reasons to allowed claims 3-8, 12-16 and 18-21 as indicated on page 6 of the Office Action.

Each of rejected claims 2 and 9 depends from amended claim 1, and each of rejected claims 11, 17 and 22-27 depends from amended claim 10 either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, each of claims 2, 9, 11, 17 and 22-27 is also believed allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 9-11, 17 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited document from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited document is, in fact, prior art.

Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

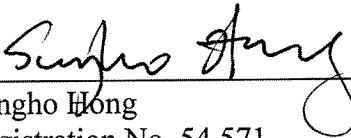
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5264). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: August 3, 2007

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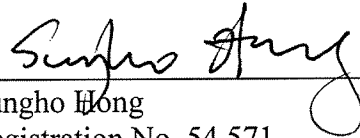
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